

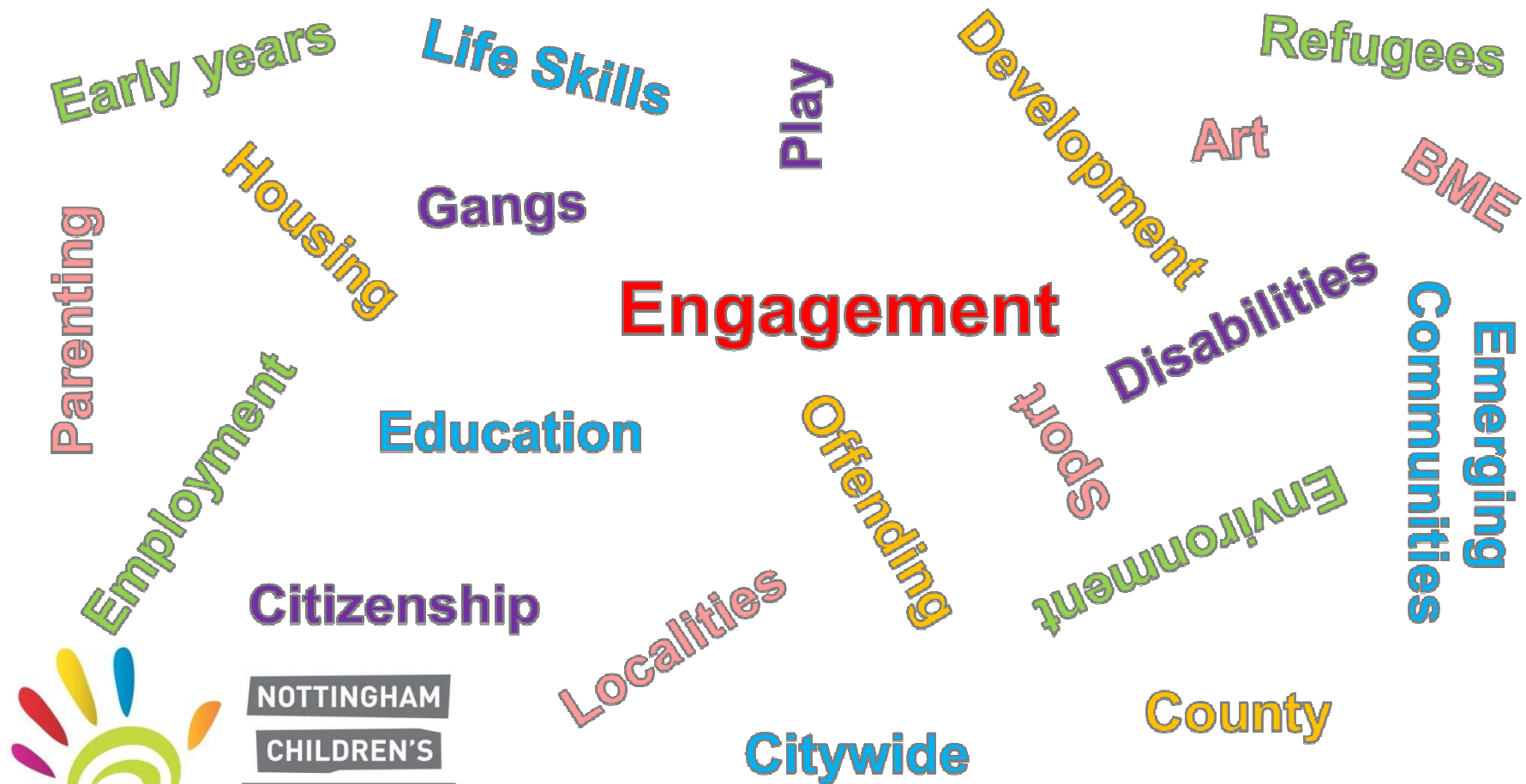
Children's Partnership Board

Partner's Update Voluntary and Community Sector Stephen McLaren



The Reach of the Sector

- 250 groups consider their work to be primarily with children, young people and their families 0 – 19 yrs



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State of the Sector

80% of groups surveyed report an **increase** in demand for services.

Groups are largely working with **less funding** than 12 months ago.

37% are working with **fewer staff**.

A further **37%** have the **same** staffing levels as last year.

89% of groups report that **welfare reform** will impact on their **client group** in some way.

54% may have to **close** a service they provide.

11% of groups may have to **close altogether**.

59% of groups say **welfare reform** will affect their **organisation** – including even more increases in demand for services.

More applications for funding are expected in the next 12 months, with **70%** reported to be seeking **local grants** – a source that is **disappearing**.

76% of organisations provide services **across the city**, not just in local areas.

Groups predominantly look to **local grants and contracts** for money, but there are **more applications** for national funds than 12 months ago.

55% say funders **don't understand** the full costs of delivery.

70% of groups are concerned that by **challenging** a funder, they **risk** their chances of being funded in the future.

54% are **pessimistic** for their client groups' future prospects.

53% are supporting **more volunteers** this year.

62% report that the funding they have is **not covering costs**.

Reserves are either being used, or are likely to be used, to **fund services**.



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The more things change...

Rapid and frequent changes have forced us to change the way we do business

Changing structures – response times

- **Grants → Commissioning**
- **Payment by results models**
- **Working in consortia – identity**
- **Area based vs. CityWide**
- **Rigorous evidencing of outcomes**
- **Services disappearing**

The more they stay the same...

Throughout a turbulent few years the sector have continued to;

- Be deeply connected with communities
- Use strength based approaches
- Work collaboratively
- Co-produce services alongside service users
- Provide the services our communities ask us to
- Commit to working in partnership

Advocates and the CYPPN

VCS Advocates : - Voluntary roles in addition to the day job that connect voluntary sector with other parts of the partnership. Currently 28 advocates acting across 37 roles.

CYPPN : - Provides opportunities for organisations to network, share good practice, promote safeguarding, disseminate information, collect evidence and views to feed back into the partnership structure.

Success Stories

Engagement with an understanding of communities is a real strength of the sector with services often bubbling up from an internal need

Chat 'bout – No decision about me without me!

- Youth participation network 17 – 24 years
- Building social capacity of next generation
- Involvement in review of services 0 – 19 years



Challenges (and opportunities) moving forward

- **Continuing change**
- **Shrinking public purse**
- **Welfare reforms**
- **Increasing demand for higher end services and the gaps in provision that this may leave behind**
- **Prevention and early intervention**

Many of the challenges ahead of us cause the sector to be deeply concerned about the welfare of service users in particular.

Not all change is bad and there are some exciting opportunities ahead for the city.

We look forward to continued meaningful partnership work bringing our expertise and our deep connection with communities.



Recommendations

- 1. Recognise the breadth and depth of the work the sector contributes to.**
- 2. Strengthen the involvement of the sector in planning from the earliest possible stages.**
- 3. Re-affirm the relationship with CYPPN as major point of communication with the sector**
- 4. Recognise the value that CYPPN provides as a vehicle to help members improve outcomes.**

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